

February 5, 1976

Under the South balcony is one of Nebraska's most interesting and influential journalists, the Editor of Western Outlook Magazine, from Ogallala, Ed Sykes. Welcome to the Legislature, Mr. Sykes.

We now go to Final Reading. It's estimated 70 minutes. Your rules provide that you shall stay in your chairs during Final Reading. Please commence with the reading of LB 91, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Read title to LB 91.

(machine inactivated)

PRESIDENT: Read the motion.

CLERK: I move to return LB 477 to Select File for specific amendment. (Read amendment offered by Senator Chambers found on page 554 of the Journal).

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I won't take a long time to discuss, but I will just state what the amendment is and what it's for. I think the bill should not pass at all. However, since it seems the Legislature is insistent on passing it and this interest rate is higher than anybody else is going to charge and you're dealing with people who have small amounts of money, you may as well let the rate be consistent across the board. The bill is going to extend the amount of time that a person can be paying this interest, the amount of the loan has been increased on which this 18 percent can be charged. So I don't see anything wrong with taking this amendment, which regardless of the amount of money that a person is going to go to one of these people for, it would be no more than 18 percent.

I think the amendment is reasonable. I don't believe it will hurt these small loan companies at all. I still think that even the 18 percent is unjust. I hope you'll consider it and return the bill for that purpose.

PRESIDENT: Senator Swigart.

SENATOR SWIGART: Mr. Chairman and colleagues, I thought we had this all worked out. We've worked it out to where it's far less than other states, like for instance Colorado, Wyoming and other states around us. I thought that we had agreed to these figures.

You know small loan companies are different than banks. They take a far greater risk. They have short terms and are allowed in every state in the Union I guess, ... these greater rates. I don't know why that is but it's true except for the fact that they are greater risk and shorter terms.

I am amazed there's an effort now because I think there was almost complete harmony related to this bill. I'm vehemently opposed to bringing it back.